

other aspects, has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration by the Government. Further necessary action in the matter will be taken in due course.

Grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organisations

593. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of non-government organisations and institutions in Bihar who applied for recurring and non-recurring grants-in-aid for Rs. five lakhs and more than ten lakhs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) details of the organisations and institutions out of the above whose applications were rejected; and

(c) the reasons for rejecting the same alongwith breakup thereof, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sugarcane Development Cess

594. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sugarcane Development Cess has been collected at the rate of Rs. 14/- per quintal by the Government;

(b) if so, the amount collected during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether the amount given in the form of loan for various items from this fund during the past years has been recovered; and

(d) if so, the amount of recovered loan deposited in this fund during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess at the rate of Rs. 14/- per quintal is being collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India.

(b) Amount collected during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Collected
1993-94	165.47
1994-95	143.64
1995-96	172.40

(c) and (d). The amount of loan disbursed in 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Disbursed
1993-94	115.28
1994-95	63.53
1995-96	55.06

The amount deposited in the fund after recovery during years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:

(In Rupees)

Year	Total
1993-94	47,61,97,815
1994-95	48,18,00,561
1995-96	34,31,23,830

Drought in Madhya Pradesh

595. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the situation arising out of drought in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the Chhatisgarh region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to provide relief so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL & HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh/based on preliminary assessment, 21 Talukas of 8 districts in the State are facing serious drought conditions.

(b) Madhya Pradesh has a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs.51.08 crores for 1996-97 for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Three instalments of CRF amounting to Rs.28.73 crores have already been released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the current year.

Tampering of Electricity and Water Bills of NDMC

596. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has unearthed a multi-crore embezzlement scam in the New Delhi Municipal Council involving the tampering of electricity and water bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials;

(e) whether the accounts of the NDMC have been audited during the last four years; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f). During the course of investigation so far, it has come to light that NDMC had granted a contract for computerisation of electricity/water bills to M/s. Software Consultants India Pvt. Ltd. in 1985. In 1992, this firm was also awarded the contract for collection of these bills from the consumers.

2. For this purpose 4 counters were opened at Parliament Annexe, Kidwai Nagar, Palika Bhawan and Gole Market in 1992 and later on more centres were opened at Bengali Market, Kaka Nagar, Nirman Bhavan, Palika Kendra.

3. Since the billing and collection of electricity and water bills were assigned to the same agency, it used to collect full amount of the bills from the consumers, issue computerised receipts and simultaneously enter these receipts in the computers. After daily collections, some persons of the agency used to copy the entries of daily collection stored in the computer in a separate computer file and thereafter resort to at random manipulations of the collection entries in this file by reducing the amount actually collected from different consumers. Thus, difference of the actual collection and the amount shown in the manipulated collection statement, that was being submitted to the NDMC alongwith the cash collected on the next day, was being misappropriated.

4. The Computer file containing actual collection was used for the purpose of issuing the next bills to the consumers so that no arrears would get reflected in the bills of the consumers. Only the bills of the private consumer were being manipulated.

5. Although the manipulated statements alongwith reduced cash were deposited with the NDMC cash section on the next day, the statement showing actual collection was used to be deposited at end of the year with the Rent Section of the NDMC, and the two were never tallied by the concerned sections of the NDMC. This encouraged/enabled the agency to perpetuate the raud over a long period.

6. Investigation has so far revealed that by way of the above mentioned modus operandi the owner of the agency had misappropriated a sum of Rs.6 crores approximately from March 1996 to 27th September, 1996, when the fraud was detected. Starting with lesser amount, the misappropriation in the later stages appears to be to the tune of approximately Rs.30 lakhs per

month. Further investigation in this scam is still in progress and NDMC has been requested by the CBI to conduct a special Audit for helping the CBI in ascertaining the full amount misappropriated by way of this fraud.

7. The audit of accounts of NDMC was required to be conducted by the Examiner, Local Fund Account, Delhi Administration under Punjab Municipal Act 1911. The Concurrent Audit party of Government of NCT of Delhi have been carrying out audit of various departments/units of NDMC over the years. However, the annual audit report, as required in respect of annual accounts of NDMC have not been issued by them. The last annual audit report was issued in 1989 for the year 1985-86.

8. According to the Examiner, Local Fund the Shortage of staff was one of the major factors which led to delay in finalisation and issue of annual audit reports.

Assistance to Cultivators of Fruits, Vegetable and Flowers

597. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the cultivators of fruits, vegetables and flowers;

(b) if not, reasons for not giving proper assistance for the cultivation of these items;

(c) the plans of the Government to provide commercial facilities and assistances for boosting the production of these commodities and to improve the position of India in this field in the World so that the foreign exchange earnings of the country increase;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to popularise these items in the World market; and

(e) the names of countries competing with India in the World on this count?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Government is providing substantial assistance for improving production, productivity and quality of horticulture commodities and for enhancing export. In addition support is also provided for 100 percent export oriented units (EOU) through soft loans and for building infrastructure facilities. Subsidy on air freight, brand promotion, publicity, packaging, etc. is also provided. Improved facilities are being developed for handling of perishable commodities at the Delhi and Mumbai airports.